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DPS-4573
Copy 4 of 6

11 October 1958

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MEMORANDUM FOR : [redacted] Ops DPS/DCI

THROUGH : Director of Operations, DPS/DCI

SUBJECT : Dual Oxygen System

REFERENCE : [redacted] 3140 (OUT 84766). 8 October 1958

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1. I am aware that Lockheed is developing a dual oxygen system and that Kelly Johnson still favors its installation as standard equipment in the U-2. I assume we are paying for this development work.

2. Although I am, of course, eager that we should develop and carry out any modifications which will increase reliability, I have formed the opinion in long contact with Kelly Johnson that he tends to attribute too large a part in the incidents and accidents that have occurred with the U-2 on personal equipment and the ship's oxygen system. Accordingly, I believe that in this one area Lockheed's recommendations must be carefully reviewed before they are acted on.

3. I would appreciate it if you would advise me as to the current status of their work on a dual oxygen system and your own plans for the evaluation of any prototype they install and of their recommendations for general installation. I assume that no decision would be made to authorize a major modification of this character without the prior knowledge of Colonel Burke or myself.

S. M.
RICHARD M. BESSELL, JR.
Special Assistant to the Director
for Planning and Development

RMB:cw

1-Adse

2-Dir Ops DPS/DCI

3-Dep Proj Dir DPS/DCI

4-Contracting Officer DPS/DCI

5-SA/PD/DCI subj file

6-SA/PD/DCI chrono

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DOCUMENT NO. _____
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. _____
DECLASSIFIED _____
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C
NEXT REVIEW DATE: 2011
AUTH: HR 70-2
DATE: 8/25/11

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